FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PRESIDENT VIDELA ADDRESSES NATION ON BEAGLE ISSUE

FY240053Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 78 FY

[Speech to the nation by Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla in Buenos Aires on 23 February--presumably recorded]

[Text] To the Argentine people:

As president of the nation, and since as such I am responsible for the foreign relations of my country, I think it appropriate to address you tonight to express a few thoughts concerning the conflict which has taken place with Chile regarding the southern areas.

It has been a long time since the country has paid as much attention as it has in the last few months to matters directly related to its sovereignty to such a degree that they have demanded immediate and extraordinary decisions.

The lengthy process of demarcation of borders between Chile and Argentina is entering a decisive stage. The age-old process has experienced some hard times. Perhaps, it could have been no other way if we take into account that our common border is one of the longest in the world. Being over 5,000 km long, the demarcation is further complicated by the need to establish lake and maritime jurisdictions. For all this we can say that it is an honor for the Argentines and Chileans that such a lengthy and complicated task has been dealt with peacefully at all times.

The armed forces government has remained faithful to this tradition. The preliminary agreement act signed in Puerto Montt has opened the door to direct negotiations. This is the way--the only peaceful way--which can lead us to a solution, since the settlement has been thwarted by a ruling lacking the essential elements that an arbitration ruling must take into account.

The decision to declare this ruling null and void, unanimously supported by the Argentine people, was the result of an in-depth legal analysis and an objective evaluation of the facts. In addition, this decision was in line with a firm desire to find overall and final solutions which would free future generations from problems which may be even more difficult than those we are now facing.

International law, like any other law, is aimed at order and justice. When, as in this particular case, the parties involved are states, order and justice mean peace. The nations, being the creators of international law, are at the same time responsible for the adjustment and reconciliation of their conflicting interests. When these interests do not agree, the realistic thing, the right thing to do, is to seek the appropriate political course of action to reconcile them. As I have said, under these circumstances, the only way is direct negotiation, since the disputed issues are of a political character and affect our sovereignty.

In the course of the negotiations, we have taken into account Chile's firm position in defense of its interests. Despite the attention that these interests deserve because they involve the interests of a brother country, we could not, however, do anything but assert our claim to our sovereign rights with the strongest loyalty and firmness.

That is why in the Puerto Montt act it was specifically established that these negotiations by no means meant a change in the position supported by each of the two countries regarding arbitration over the Beagle issue. In other words, since the arbitration decision is void for Argentina, the legal road is behind us.

Argentina's position regarding the Atlantic, our rights over what has always been our sea, as well as the corresponding position of Chile regarding the Pacific, are immovable concepts in American history. This is also a geographic reality recognized in the agreements in force and by universal knowledge. Argentina, an Atlantic country, with its guaranteed extension to our Antarctic, makes up the map which we have all studied since our early years. There lies our past, and doubts about this issue, any doubt, will mean denying our own future and losing our identity. This, gentlemen, is partoof a certainty which cannot be argued.

In the first meeting with President Pinochet, negotiations were conducted within guidelines which were consolidated in the act signed in Puerto Montt. Aside from this act, there is no other commitment. Nothing can then be added to the text of the document. What is not stated in the act is not stated anywhere.

This document opens up the prospect of a new dimension in our relations. From discussing almost exclusively a conflict, we must now pass to discussing the broad field of cooperation. Argentines and Chileans are now facing the prospect of strengthening our ties, perfecting our integration and better defining our common interests in vital areas such as the Antarctic, for instance. We are certainly not unaware of the fact that the issues to be discussed by the established working groups have no easy solution.

What is discussed today between Argentina and Chile is of vital interest for the two states. It is a historical moment because it is rooted in the past, and it is the key for a harmonious definition of what is to come. There will be difficult negotiations, but we hope to arrive at just and harmonious solutions. We know that dialog alone does not resolve problems of complex interests, but we believe it is an essential condition for finding formulas for solutions. Therefore, we consider that for this dialog to be fruitful it should be honest and frank, both in structure and in content.

This is the time for calm, even though there is reason for legitimate concern. As the Argentine people already know, the principles agreed upon with the Chilean president are sufficiently solid and clear for the task which now begins to develop fruitfully.

Compatriots: Today, as in other times during our history, we embark on the road to negotiation. We could have taken the road toward armed conflict, as we have done at other times while defending not only our sovereignty but also the freedom of brother states. However, we have confronted this problem--one which has been dragging on since the 19th century--with an attitude befitting men of the 20th century. We understand that our immediate future will pose challenges which will require permanent solution to unite our countries as closely together as the common struggle which gave birth to our nations.

The army, the navy and the air force are fully aware that they have fulfilled their duties to the nation's interests.

The nation--which today, as always, is vibrant in all its aspects, once again needs reason to outweigh passion, serenity to dominate impatience. Let dialog once again triumph over conflict.

It is not a time for quick solutions. It is a time for firm, but responsible, attitudes. This is our duty to the nation.

NUCLEAR TALKS WITH CANADA TERMED UNSATISFACTORY

PY221216Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0035 GMT 22 Feb 78 PY

[Text] A Foreign Ministry source reported tonight that the negotiations held last week in Canada between Argentina's National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA] and its Canadian counterpart were unsatisfactory from Argentina's point of view. He added that disagreement arose when it was learned that Canada wishes to omit essential clauses in the technological transference agreement signed by the two countries, because it believes that its obligations are conditioned by Argentina's fulfillment of the requirements included in the new Canadian nuclear policy. He added that the Foreign Ministry believes that this attitude means that the Canadian Government doubts Argentina's firm determination to support the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons as indicated in the extensive agreements which it has signed in this regard.

FOREIGN UNDER SECRETARY DISCUSSES RESULTS OF EUROPE TRIP

PY222053Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1020 GMT 22 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb--Foreign Under Secretary Gualter Allara, who traveled to Paris, France, on 16 February with Cdr Roberto Perez Froio, press and information secretary of the Foreign Ministry, stated that the purpose of his trip was to review the development and progress of everything regarding the dissemination of the Argentine image abroad with some of the Argentine ambassadors accredited in Western Europe.

Allara met in Paris with the Argentine ambassadors to Spain, Gen Leandro Anaya; to Italy, Brig Gen Rolando Ghisani (Ret); to France, Tomas de Anchorena; and with the Argentine charge d'affaires in the UK, Rafael Gowland.

Allara denied having met with church, government or political officials during his stay in Paris, and he emphasized that his aim was to gather ideas and suggestions to establish guidelines for the activities of the Center for the Promotion of the Argentine Image in Europe, headquartered in Paris. The Allara mission had as its aim a direct briefing about a presumed new outbreak of the campaign against Argentina toward reducing attendance at the World Congress on Cancer to be held in Buenos Aires and at the World Soccer Cup match and creating other problems regarding homages to be paid to General San Martin on the 200th anniversary of his birth.

Allara added that Ambassador Anchorena has sent a note to Cardinal Marty, Paris Archbishop, firmly replying to Marty's unusual attitude, since San Martin--as the note states--is not a hero of only Argentina, for he has a broad American projection. The religious ceremony in tribute to the liberator will be held on 24 February at the residence of the Argentine ambassador in Paris and will be celebrated by Msgr Collino, Lomas de Zamora bishop. Allara added that another similar tribute will be paid in Boulogne Sur Mer.

GENERAL PEREDA ASBUN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

PY221252Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] A press conference called by the official presidential candidate, Gen Juan Pereda Asbun, was held today at 1530 and dealt with issues different from those announced at noon today by a Falange leader. Questions put to Pereda by journalists were attentively heard by the candidate's supporters at Radio Mendez. Pereda's answers were received with applause and cheers by his supporters during an event unprecedented in press circles during the last few years.

More than to the content of the press conference's question and answer period granted by General Pereda, journalists directed their attention to the presence of political leaders and members of various organizations, who made possible the official creation of the party called Nationalist Union of the People [Union Nacionalista del Pueblo].

The first reaction of the journalists, and maybe even of the participants in the press conference, was to guess that General Pereda's companions would be future candidates for ministers, under secretaries, senators or deputies.

The more important statements made by General Pereda during the press conference follow:

We are searching for the humanization of the political struggle. If elected, my government will defend the principles of human rights. We will constantly search for a solution to the maritime problem. Not only do we seek to win the elections, but we also seek the nation's stability. We will give dignity to unions. The people will never allow a return to the past, nor will it allow chaos. Our strength is the people's strength.

General Pereda also said: "The Topater group is resentful. It is obvious that when they no longer hold office they turn against everything. Bolivia is a peaceful country. The maritime problem, a very delicate one indeed, will be dealt with in due time. I will select my running mate at the appropriate time. I am willing to accept any debate with representative people, but not with those who only represent themselves or a very small group." This allusion refers to Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz of the Socialist Party [PS]. "I am glad that this dissident realizes the need for dialog. We respect freedom of the press. My candidacy is not right wing. It is within a nationalist revolutionary framework. Our position is left of center, but far removed from extremism. The political parties which make up the Nationalist Union of the People will retain their original symbols. There are certain labor sectors which want to unite themselves to our organization."

These were the more important statements delivered by candidate Pereda Asbun during the press conference announcing the establishment of the political entity which will participate in the upcoming elections.

MIR LEADER HOLDS TALKS WITH FORMER PRESIDENTS

PY230207Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 22 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] Antonio Aranibar, the main leader of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], has returned to Bolivia after touring Europe and South America and after meeting two former presidents with whom he discussed the nomination of the opposition's candidate, who will dispute the presidency with the military candidate in the next election.

In a press conference, the MIR leader also reported that he met with European political leaders, namely Felipe Gonzalez, head of the Spanish Workers Socialist Party [PSCE].

Aranibar said that he did not meet General Ovando [former Bolivian president residing in Spain] to make decisions but noted that they reached important agreements. He added that progress has been made in the talks with Siles Zuazo toward forming a leftwing front for the July election. He said: Popular democratic forces will give real significance to the institutionalization process in Bolivia. Our agreement with former President Siles Zuazo and other leftwing political sectors is aimed at actively participating in the democratization process, and at condemning the antinational perpetuation goals sought by the government. We must prevent this de facto dictatorship from becoming a legal dictatorship.

He added: General Pereda's candidacy is supported by counterrevolutionary forces. Pereda regards himself as the central-left candidate because he has no political support, since the government is overwhelmed by political confusion and the people lack information.

LABOR LEADER SAYS FREE ELECTIONS NOT YET POSSIBLE

PY221248Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] Juan Lechin Oquendo called the members of the new Nationalist Union of the People nothing but a small unrepresentative group. He also affirmed that its members are only hoping to become ministers through the next elections. The leader of the Bolivian Labor Central [COB] also said that the workers who strive for this country's wealth have more right to participate in politics than those who spend that wealth. The labor leader's statements were made when a group of journalists met with Lechin to seek his opinion of the newly formed Nationalist Union of the People, which openly supports Gen Juan Pereda Asbun for constitutional president of Bolivia.

The leader also stated that at this moment there are legal liberties but not full constitutional rights. Interference by labor coordinators and the army in some areas demonstrates the fact that full freedom does not exist and, therefore, free elections cannot be held without full rights.

When asked by journalists what he thought of the statements made by the military candidate that unions should deal only with labor problems and not political ones, Lechin answered: [begin recording] I do not agree with that statement. Those who strive for this country's wealth have more right to participate in politics than those who spend that wealth. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BREAK RELATIONS WITH CHILE

PY231339Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The armed forces government will not break off diplomatic relations with Chile, but will leave the decision to change or revise Bolivian foreign policy to the new government which will come to power in August this year. This decision, which foreign policy experts believe to be the most advisable, was reportedly made after discussions at the highest level in the last few days. The news was revealed by usually well-informed sources.

In the last few hours requests to break off relations with Chile have become general. The Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB], a party which (?earlier) participated in the present regime, has asked the government to take this step, stating that Chile has thwarted the legitimate aspirations of the Bolivian people to have their own port and a direct and sovereign outlet to the sea. That request, says [words indistinct], should be no surprise to the public, since it was announced by Mario Gutierrez Gutierrez, chief of the FSB, who was foreign minister [words indistinct] and participated in that capacity in the renewal of relations with Chile 3 years ago at (?the meeting between) Banzer and Pinochet, better known as the "embrace at Charana."

GOVERNMENT OPPOSES U.S. SALE OF TIN RESERVES

PY221625Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2005 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 21 Feb--Authorized sources reported here today that Bolivia will reiterate to the U.S. Government its opposition to a possible sale of strategic tin reserves by the General Service Administration [GSA].

Negotiations with President Jimmy Carter's administration will be part of an official strategy in defense of Bolivian interests in the international tin market. Bolivia is a at present the second producer of tin in the world.

Sources close to the Bolivian Mining Corporation told LATIN that the guidelines of this policy are now being studied by a group of official advisors and Carlos Iturralde, the new Bolivian ambassador to the United States who is in Washington until the end of February to assume his diplomatic duties.

The GSA is awaiting U.S. congressional authorization to launch an international sale of about 30,000 tons of tin. Bolivian sources reiterated that this sale would affect Bolivian trade interests.

Government officials noted that personal negotiations are being carried out by Bolivian President Hugo Banzer with his American colleague Jimmy Carter to stop the sale of these strategic reserves. Banzer sent a letter to President Carter 2 weeks ago in which he states his government's concern over this threat and requests a solution compatible with Bolivian economic interests.

According to local sources, Iturralde also took part in the study of the proposals which Bolivia submitted last April to the International Tin Council [CIE], the top-ranking entity which regulates the international tin market.

SIMONSEN OUTLINES BRAZIL'S STANDS AT GATT TALKS

PY221948Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Feb 78 p 23 PY

[Text] Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen yesterday commented on the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff [GATT] negotiations. He said that if "the damages clause (a country can only impose a compensatory tariff on a foreign product if it can prove that export subsidies damaged the local industry) were respected, there would be no need to change the Brazilian incentives system.

"Depending on the results of the GATT negotiations," he said, "we will make the appropriate changes and, if necessary, we will improve financial assistance to exporting enterprises (grant financing) in order to continue with our same foreign trade policy." The statements were made by the finance minister to businessmen attending an ordinary session of the board of directors of the Center for Foreign Trade Studies Foundation. The meeting was the reason for the minister's trip to Rio.

According to Simonsen, the positions to be defended by Brazil during the GATT meetings will be: the reestablishment of the damages clause "which is now being disregarded because of a lack of knowledge"; and, with respect to exports incentives, the categorization by products instead of the traditional categorization by developed and underdeveloped countries (underdeveloped countries need to subsidize their exports in order to compete with developed nations). For example, Brazil can be considered a developed nation in the case of coffee exports, and it does not need export incentives for this product. It can be considered underdeveloped in shoe exports, which represent a minimal share of our trade balance.

"Suppose there is no general agreement," he stated. "The policy would be to establish incentives for those countries which need them, and to refrain from using incentives with countries which refuse them."

Simonsen believes that it will be very difficult to arrive at a conclusion which would satisfy all the countries in GATT. According to his explanation, the hindrance in the negotiations is due to the fact that Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC] nations now have an annual surplus of $800 billion in open accounts, and other countries do not want to accept their deficit status.

"Protectionism is only the result of the OPEC surplus. The only solution would be for all countries to abide by the damages clause. An international incentives code is becoming more and more urgently needed--what kinds of incentives should exist, what types of retaliation--in order to ease disputes in international trade so they won't turn into an atomic war."

In answer to a question from Affonso Pastore concerning the repeal by 1979 of the Wever prerogative--that is, the U.S. trade act which allows a country accused of dumping to defend itself--Simonsen did not agree with the exporters' negative expectations, and appeared to be at ease. "We only use the Wever prerogative in the leather exchange, and for the gradual reduction of incentives. Each trade act case can satisfactorily resolve itself, as long as the Americans do not overtax shoe imports."

With respect to projections for Brazilian foreign trade in 1978, Simonsen observed that this year we will not match last year's increase.

He expects the export of manufactured goods to grow about 35 percent--a more favorable projection might estimate a bit more--and the prime goods exports to maintain the 1977 level of 19 percent. He emphasized the importance of services exports. He believes that the greatest possibilities of making offers to countries with monetary reserves, those with petrodollars, lie in this field. "Following services exports," he observed, "there is always domestic equipment as indicated by our technicians. It is extremely important for our country to balance the services item in its balance of payments, presently in a critical state."

Still referring to incentives, he praised the good result of Resolution 398, which grants preferred credit, but stating that "the exports incentives policy should not change much during the next government. Emphasis on exports will continue, thank God, because even if there is a change in government in Brazil, there will be no change in our respect for Aristotelian logic. No one encourages exports without incentives." However, he announced the termination of preferred credit for soybean oil exports.

He reiterated to the businessmen that manufactured goods exports should be more sophisticated and efficient. The businessmen asked if there would be some possibility of competing with the more modern technology of developed countries. Simonsen answered: "We do not pretend to export manufactured goods with extremely advanced technology. However, there are some areas in which we have the necessary technology, and we do not need to imitate other countries in the household appliances, automobile and textile sectors."

With respect to new markets, and in particular to the increase in exports in Eastern Europe, Simonsen commented that we have achieved an increase of 45 percent (in 1977) in this market. However, a practical problem now being confronted in this field is the import-export relations with these countries.

We are importing $1 for every $10 we export. Eastern European countries are now demanding reciprocity, and if this continues we will probably decrease imports from other countries in order to achieve an increase for additional exports, the minister said.

The import-export bureaucracy is being simplified, and export security is considered a priority issue not only for manufactured goods, but mainly for services, according to Simonsen's reports.

FRG REJECTS NETHERLANDS NUCLEAR OBJECTIONS

PY230109Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Feb 78 p 6 PY

[By O ESTADO correspondent William Waack]

[Excerpt] The FRG has decided not to offer any more guarantees to the Netherlands other than those which had already been agreed upon in January 1978 between URENCO and Brazil for the supply of enriched uranium to the nuclear plants of Angra dos Reis II and III. The FRG Government made this decision during a confidential meeting of the interministerial commission for the peaceful use of atomic energy which was held in Bonn on Wednesday. This decision means a downright "no" to the demands issued by the Netherlands parliament.

In the beginning of February, the Netherlands parliament approved an increase of the productive capacity of the Almelo uranium enriching plant, but they conditioned the supply of nuclear fuel, for countries which did not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, to the adoption of international regulations which provide for the use of safeguards, or to the implementation of an agreement with Brazil before the first shipments to Angra dos Reis by 1982. In the 13 January agreement, however, in which the three members of URENCO (the FRG, the Netherlands and Great Britain) and Brazil formally signed the agreement to supply uranium, it has been established that the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] would be implemented only when the first shipments begin to leave the enrichment plants by 1986.

A FRG Government spokesman yesterday said: "We have assumed a commitment to Brazil and we will have to respect it. In this manner we cannot accept the new Netherlands demands." Official circles in Bonn admit that the FRG will adopt a "tough position" against the Netherlands as a consequence of the decision made on Wednesday.

Some reports in Bonn assert that Great Britain "will not offer any resistance" to the export of fissionable material to the two Brazilian reactors, which will turn the Brazil-Almelo complex into a solely FRG-Brazilian question. In Bonn, the irritation caused by the decision of the Netherlands parliament was not concealed at all.

FIGUEIREDO FORGING GOOD RELATIONS WITH PRESS

PY221430Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Feb 78 p 2 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--Better relations with the press, including contacts by the president himself with editors of leading press organizations, and more discreet action by security agents in setting up their security rings around the president during his public appearances, are some of the innovations which may possibly be implemented in the next government. These innovations reflect suggestions and studies carried out by a small group of friends and aides of Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo. Even before Figueiredo's appointment as official candidate to the presidency, this group was concerned about building a favorable image for the little known head of the National Intelligence Service [SNI].

Another conclusion reached by this group--which is made up of Mario Andreazza, Costa Cavalcanti, Humberto Barreto, Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, Heitor Aquino Ferreira, Mauro Salles, Delio Jardim de Matos, Col Danilo Venturini and Golbery do Couto e Silva himself--is already being implemented. Thanks to this group, persons who hold private talks with the candidate in his office at Planalto Palace are authorized to reveal fully to the press the issues they discussed with him. Figueiredo will simply not tell them anything that should not be disclosed. On the one hand, this strategy poses the risk of eventual misinterpretations of the candidate's thinking; on the other hand, it enables him to make known his viewpoints on major current issues and is in keeping with his decision to hold a frank, open dialog. Members of this group will correct any misinterpretation which may arise without resorting to the traditional denials, but rather by the use of additional remarks.

The SNI chief has shown receptiveness to suggestions and observations because he considers that a government must communicate with the people. He believes that the image of a president of the republic must not be sold to the people by publicity experts, but rather should stem from the ruler's personality, which will become known naturally to the people in the course of time.

General Figueiredo has not changed his personal appearance, with the exception of his glasses which are now lighter and clearer. He meets with virtually every person who asks him for a meeting, including politicians and businessmen. He even met an alternate state deputy who, among other things, claimed to be "a supporter of Juscelino Kubitschek and Castello Branco" and made Figueiredo stand up to pray with him for the success of his government. Unlike President Geisel, who in 4 years never held a press conference and only once agreed to talk to reporters in his office, General Figueiredo has already met several journalists with whom he granted off-the-record interviews." A member of the above-mentioned group and one of Geisel's main advisers said: "He will talk so much that you will get tired."

One of the main observations made by this group is that the image of a president cannot be discredited by the excesses committed by security agents, who will invariably surround him in his public appearances and in his visits to the states. This group believes, however, that security agents will be much more discreet during the Figueirdo administration. A congressman told the candidate that deputies are hesitant to welcome the president in airports and ceremonies when they do not have special invitations for fear of being expelled by security agents, adding that this prevents the president from receiving spontaneous expressions of support. A few days ago Geisel visited the University of Brasilia, but he did not see a student. Rector Jose Carlos Azevedo confided later to his friends that the list of guests for the occasion was restricted to those whom Planalto Palace considered indispensable.

General Figueiredo's office as candidate will be coordinated by his aides Colonel Venturini and Captain Marcone and, according to a spokesman of this group, it will be different from that of Costa e Silva, headed by Andreazza, and that of Geisel, headed by Moraes Rego. The new style and image of the future president will then become more evident.

ARGENTINE ENVOY DISCUSSES PARANA AT ITAMARATY

PY230036Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Feb 78 p 6 PY

[Excerpt] The Argentine ambassador met yesterday at Itamaraty with Joao Hermes Pereira de Araujo, head of the American department, trying to set the date for the next series of trilateral talks on the use of the Parana River which will be held in Asuncion. Notwithstanding the official explanation, diplomatic sources have interpreted Camilion's visit to Itamaraty as the beginning of direct talks between Brazil and Argentina on the question of the use of the Parana River.

According to diplomatic sources, the "diplomatic invitation" of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry to Ambassador Camilion to discuss this subject must have been made this past week after the visit of Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues to Brasilia. At that time, some Brazilian newspapers published some reports allegedly coming from government sources that a meeting between Brazilian and Argentine representatives was imminent for a preliminary discussion of the subjects which will be included in the trilateral talks about the use of the Parana River.

PRESIDENT GIVES ASSURANCE OF ELECTORAL IMPARTIALITY

PA221416Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen today assured opposition leaders who resigned from the Electoral Vigilance Committee, alleging a lack of guarantees in the electoral process, that the authorities in charge of order in their respective jurisdictions are maintaining a climate of full guarantees in which the people can express their free will.

In a letter addressed to these opposition leaders, President Lopez Michelsen tells them that their decision to withdraw from the committee is a mistake. He assures them that he has personally resolved claims and complaints and that he has obtained from his assistants throughout the country the assurance that accusations made against government officials of violating legal norms regarding the electoral process are unfounded. President Lopez Michelsen adds in his letter that the authorities have been impartial toward and respectful of the electoral process which has proceeded normally and without obstacles.

Finally, he tells them, I hope I have made myself clear that your reasons for withdrawing from the Electoral Vigilance Committee are unfounded.

POLICE FREE KIDNAPED ITALIAN INDUSTRIALIST

PA231941Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Medellin--Italian industrialist Jose Bartolini (Bernini) was rescued safe and sound by agents of the Administrative Department of Security's (DAS) antikidnaping squad during an operation that began at 1700 yesterday. Three of his kidnapers were arrested during the operation.

Bartolini (Bernini), 50, was held hostage at a fashionable home in the [word indistinct] neighborhood. southwest of the Antioquia Department capital. Secret agents raided the home, rescused the hostage and arrested three members of the kidnaping ring without firing a single shot. Jose Bartolini, owner of the Bartoplast Plastic Company, was seized in the early hours of the morning on Friday in Medellin by several men who were riding in a gray Fiat taxi. The former hostage was taken to the Fourth Brigade facilities this morning where he underwent a medical checkup. Mrs Ana (Posner), wife of a wealthy industrialist of Polish descent, was also released in Bogota yesterday upon payment of a 5 million peso ransom. The DAS reported that not a cent was paid for Italian industrialist Jose Bartolini (Bernini's) release.

It was reported that the three kidnapers who were arrested during the operation that led to Bartolini's release have been identified as Hernando Lopez Quintero, Guillermo Zapata Velez and Rodrigo Alberto (Yepes). The DAS director reported that the rescue operation was conducted in concert with the Fourth Brigade and the F-2. Industrialist Bartolini (Bernini), who is in good health, told the authorities that he does not plan to leave the country.

URBAN GUERRILLAS TAKE OVER TELEPHONE OFFICE

PA231943Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Cali--An urban command of the self-styled Popular Liberation Army this morning took over the telephone central in Periquillo neighborhood, painted revolutionary slogans on its walls and cut off the private and public long distance lines. The command, comprising three men and a woman who were carrying machineguns, beat guard Luis Alberto Corrales, took his service revolver and then locked him up in a lavatory. As the guerrillas left the official agency's offices, a police patrol caught up with them and arrested Luis Hernan Cobos, who is being questioned at the Third Brigade. An intensive operation is underway in the El Valle Department capital to try to find the three other urban guerrillas.

INJURIES REPORTED AFTER CLASHES IN ANTIOQUIA

PA232024Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Medellin--Yesterday afternoon's clashes between uniformed police and demonstrators in San Carlos Municipality resulted in one police officer and several civilians being injured. Spokesmen for the Antioquia governor's office told this station that the authorities instituted a curfew and imposed a dry law throughout the area after stone-throwing incidents took place in the urban part of the township. It was also reported that the curfew was lifted this morning but that the dry law will remain in effect until after next Sunday's elections.

STUDENT VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN CALI

PA232018Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Cali--Further student disturbances were staged today by students of the Santa Librada High School, INEM [not further identified] and the Antonio Jose Camacho Technical-Professional Institute. The students rushed into the streets demanding the immediate release of 108 fellow students who were arrested yesterday in the wake of clashes with the police. The demonstrators are also asking the government not to agree to the transportation workers' request to raise urban transportation fares.

Even though no serious injuries have been reported, police sources said that eight agents were bruised by stones thrown by the rioting students. Police squads resorted to tear gas bombs and clubs to break up the student groups. The capital returned to normality at noon. Governor Carlos Holguin (Tardi) announced that drastic measures will be taken against those students who are caught disturbing the peace. He also urged parents to exercise stricter control over their children. Those schools where the students insist on disrupting public order were closed today.

BRIEFS

MEASURE ON ILLEGAL RESIDENTS--Bogota, 21 Feb--The government today legalized the status of thousands of illegal Colombian residents in Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and Venezuela by incorporating into the labor legislation an agreement signed with the member countries of the Andean Subregional Pact. It states that the signatory nations of the Cartagena Agreement cannot expel illegal residents in their territories who are involved in legal activities. The permanence of the illegal residents in countries other than their country of origin will be guaranteed by labor immigration offices created by the respective governments. More than 1 million illegal Colombian residents in Venezuela will benefit from this measure. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA]

TERRORIST EXPLOSIONS LEAVE ONE DEAD IN GUAYAQUIL

PA222032Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1900 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 22 Feb (EFE)--Three terrorist explosions early this morning in Quayaquil left one dead and caused considerable property damage, reports received today in Quito indicate that Jorge Barreto, a merchant, was killed by an explosion near the home of a Christian Democrat leader. In another terrorist explosion, the car of Xavier Benedetti, a political commentator and director general of television Channel 10 news services, was partially destroyed. A third explosion, which only caused property damage, took place near El Dorado supermarket.

POLITICAL PARTIES OPPOSE NEW ELECTORAL LAW

PA231655Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2333 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[By Julio Cesar Villaverde]

[Excerpts] Quito, 22 Feb (LATIN)--Ecuador's return to democratic rule was jeopardized today due to mounting protests by most political parties and dynamite attacks carried out in Guayaquil, 450 km southwest of here. Political pronouncements rejecting the laws on elections and political parties, which were promulgated by the military government on Monday, increased because the laws exclude two [as received] presidential candidates from running in the 16 July election. The Concentration of Popular Forces, whose leader Asaad Bucaram is one of the candidates who was eliminated, is organizing a street demonstration for tomorrow in Guayaquil, where it has its headquarters.

The law on elections, which also excluded former President Carlos Julio Arosemena from the race, has been attacked by many parties, including those that will apparently benefit from the elimination of the two candidates. Still running are Quito Mayor Sixto Duran, who is supported by nine center-rightwing parties and is considered to be the most likely to win; Francisco Huerta for the Liberal Party, Rodrigo Borja for the Democratic Left, and Abdon Calderon for the Alfarist Radical Front.

"We cannot agree with laws that address themselves to circumstances that are contrary to the spirit of the constitution and the democratic principles that we plan to establish in Ecuador," the Conservative Party that supports Duran stated. "This is the ultimate expression of the disregard for the promises made by the dictatorship, of the mockery of the will of the people and of the intention of the dictatorship to perpetuate itself through agents infiltrated into the next administration," the People's Democracy, which includes Christian Democrats and Progressive Conservatives, statement read.

"The military triumvirate and the high military commands are seriously challenging the Ecuadorean people by enacting an election law that is unconstitutional, discriminatory and intended to favor the official candidate, Sixto Duran," the Leftwing Broad Front, which unites Communists, Socialists and other groups, contended. Many other political parties issued similar pronouncements hinting at or openly stating the possibility of favoritism toward Duran in view of the elimination of his major opponent, populist Bucaram.

REPORTS, COMMENTARY ON CONTINUING STUDENT DISTURBANCES

Caracas Radio Continente Comment

PA231736Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

["Crime Does Not Pay" program by Jose Cantos Suares]

[Text] Disturbances continued to take place yesterday in Caracas and other important cities of the country. These disturbances were organized by individuals who care little if the students are arrested or killed. They are professional agitators who only seek to disrupt public order, regardless of the consequences. These individuals have always lived within the democratic system, within the best system of the world, but they insist on attacking this system. These individuals have never felt what it is to live under any of the dictatorships this country has had. That is why they are unable to fully appreciate a democratic system.

These individuals are unscrupulous and are greatly harming Venezuela. They are leading the students to commit actions which benefit them very little. This state of affairs cannot continue.

It is about time that the Venezuelan students realize they are being used for actions which have ulterior motives. The people do not approve of any type of demonstration which actually harms them. Students are supposed to study so that they become useful men and women for the country. Students should also realize that they are slowly killing their parents, especially their old ladies. Their parents are men and women who, through great pains, are paying tuition so that their children can become high school graduates now and, later, university graduates. Their fathers are hard-working men who go to work everyday and might even be killed in the streets, a casualty of their own children. Their mothers are crying at home, not sure if they will have to go to the police station to pick up the youngster who was supposed to be studying or will have to identify a body in some morgue. The students should stop to think about this when they are pushed by the professional agitators.

In all sincerity, there is no greater sorrow in this world--at least I think so--than to see an old lady at the police station trying to find her son or grandchild, or at the morgue waiting for the body of her beloved child, gone forever. It is criminal to put the old ladies through such sorrow and grief. It is a crime, and crime does not pay.

Interior Ministry Communique

PA231357Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] A plan exists to use violence to disrupt the normal course of the upcoming electoral campaign, a communique issued by the Ministry of Interior reports. It says that young students have been encouraged by professional agitators. The communique adds that the violence in which small student groups are involved is not the result of school affairs. The communique adds that the Ministry of Education has decided to close any school where disturbances are reported.

Gen Guillermo Cuartin (Gare), military intelligence director, said that the extreme leftist groups-- revolutionary action groups, Ruptura and (FAN) [not further identified] --are directing vandalism in Caracas and other areas of the country.

He added that the most aggressive groups belong to the Luis Espelocin and Luis Razetti High Schools. General Cuartin (Gare) said that some of those arrested have been involved in this type of activity before.

Official Reports on Arrests

PA232246Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] (?Sixty) minors and 12 adults have been arrested by the metropolitan police in various sectors of the Caracas metropolitan area during the past few hours as a result of the disturbances that have hit this city during the past few days. The information director of the Caracas governor's office [name indistinct] will give more details on the activity carried out by the metropolitan police in the past few days.

[Begin recording] As a result of the demonstrations during the past few days in the metropolitan area, we have a total of 50 policemen and (?detectives) injured [words indistinct]. Sixty minors have been arrested. They are being (?turned over to their parents or guardians). Those who have records have been turned over to the courts. We have also arrested 12 adults [words indistinct]. In one of those cases, subversive material was found [words indistinct] turned over to state security bodies.

[Question] Are there repeat offenders or individuals with ties with subversive groups among the adults arrested?

[Answer] In the case of repeat offenders we will apply the vagrancy and criminal law. If there are persons who might be linked to (?subversive) activities, they will be turned over to state security bodies where the appropriate investigations will be carried out. [end recording]

EL MUNDO REPORTS PLAN TO KILL SOMOZA; PLO, CARLOS INVOLVED

PA231342Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1301 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[By Victor Hugo Carvajal]

[Text] Caracas, 22 Feb (EFE)--Venezuelan citizen Carlos Ilich Ramirez (the "Jackal"), who is presumably responsible for a large number of terrorist activities carried out in the last few years, is preparing to assassinate Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza.

A report to this effect was published in Caracas today by the EL MUNDO evening newspaper, which states that the Jackal's headquarters is in the Costa Rican Province of Guanacaste, on the border with Nicaragua. According to the paper, a leader of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) met with Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front, in Libya recently and convinced 'Arafat of the need to support the struggle against Somoza.

As a result of that meeting, 'Arafat pledged to provide financial backing for the assassination of Somoza. In addition, the plot would be headed by Carlos Ilich Ramirez, who went to Costa Rica from Colombia.

EL MUNDO says that the "Jackal" is in hiding in the "D-8 sanctuary" in the Guanacaste, Costa Rica, area where the Sandinist guerrillas are preparing to assassinate General Somoza. The newspaper adds that the "Jackal's" plan is to get close to Somoza by bribing Nicaraguan National Guard officers who are either close to the security corps or members of it.

The paper adds that by way of a perfect chain, the money for the bribes was delivered to the "Jackal" through the Soviet Embassy in Costa Rica, which delivered it to leaders of the communist party in that country, who in turn made the delivery to the Sandinists. From them it was turned over to the international terrorist.

MAS, MEP, MIR, PCV TURN DOWN SINGLE CANDIDATE THESIS

PA191342Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 16 Feb 78 p D-1 PA

[Article by Leopoldo Linares]

[Excerpts] The talks among the secretaries general of the Movement for Socialism (MAS), People's Electoral Movement (MEP), Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV) in search of a candidate to unify the leftwing sectors during the present electoral campaign concluded yesterday without any positive achievements. Deputy Teodoro Petkoff's statements, which this newspaper published yesterday, were the straw that broke the camel's back, as the saying goes. The MEP, MIR and PCV spokesmen have all described Petkoff's statements as imprudent, arrogant and against unity.

Paz Galarraga, the MEP secretary general, has released the following statement:

"Unfortunately, no agreement was reached regarding a single presidential candidacy, which is what the people expected from these talks among leftwing parties. The MAS national leadership rejected the proposal to choose an independent candidate who would unite us all. MAS politely and elegantly rejected the proposal, and proposed instead primary elections. At this point primary elections are impracticable, particularly when it comes to deciding who the leftwing parties' sympathizers are throughout the country, in order to provide them with an electoral card that would allow them to vote. This proposal is good for the next constitutional period, but to propose it now is tantamount to saying no."

Jesus Faria, the PCV secretary general, began by admitting to this newsman that Deputy Teodoro Petkoff's statements in the name of MAS were "frankly imprudent and upset several comrades at yesterday's meeting."

[Question] Did the secretaries general come to an agreement that the search for a unity candidacy was at an end?

[Answer] It is not really an agreement, but several of the persons attending the meeting said they would tell the press that it is.

[Question] And how does the PCV feel about this?

[Answer] We believe that the balance of the talks held has been positive, particularly in the area of labor unions, where we are in a position to confront the government's antilabor measures, and in the area of the trade unions, such as the associations of journalists and doctors.

[Question] But has the idea of a single candidacy failed?

[Answer] We have not failed. Although we have not succeeded yet, we may continue our talks and reach an agreement at any time. The elections are still many months away.

According to Faria, the PCV is willing to hold a new national convention to withdraw Hector Mujica's presidential candidacy if the leftwing parties can reach an agreement regarding a single candidate. Faria explained that that candidate may be any one of the three candidates nominated by the leftwing parties so long as he is backed by the necessary consensus.

[Question] Is not the process too advanced for the solution you are suggesting?

[Answer] We do not think so. Unity can be achieved at any moment. It is not a problem of time, but rather of political order. Remember the popular saying: better late than never.

Faria insisted on the need to continue with the talks in order to materialize agreements regarding nonaggression among the leftwing sectors, unity in the labor union area, the defense of socialist votes and the possibility of having a single slate of candidates.

Romulo Henriquez, the acting MIR secretary general, also released a written statement:

"The statements made by MAS Assistant Secretary General Teodoro Petkoff, which combine prepotency and sectarianism with a good dose of disrespect and rudeness, put an undesirable end to the talks about a single candidacy. Although these statements are marked by sincerity, they nevertheless expose his party's true position vis-a-vis the problem at hand.

The MAS assistant secretary general has had disrespect for the MEP, PCV and MIR candidates, has attacked the independents of the Group of 100, saying that in fact they number only 20, has ridiculed the meetings held by the leftwing parties' secretaries general by contemptuously describing them as coteries, and has dismissed as childish the statements made by the spokesmen of the various leftwing parties. Finally, in order to better explain the spirit behind the policy he represents, Petkoff has said that he is not interested in pacts and that "MAS by itself has managed to break the existing political bipolarity." His words have been clear enough. The use of this style against other leftwing people and the arrogant reaffirmation of his prepotence during the time that possible unity pacts are being discussed clearly show that MAS lacks the necessary prerequisites for attaining a single candidacy.

The search for a single candidate, Senator Pompey Marquez admitted last night, is encountering one of its most difficult moments, and the possibilities for such a candidate are very remote. Yesterday's meeting was held at the MAS parliamentary faction's local, therefore Senator Marquez was the host. It is for this reason that we asked him about the results of the meeting held with his MEP, MIR and PCV counterparts; instead Marquez chose to discuss the candidacy problem in general terms, stressing two things which in his opinion are very important.

1. The idea of holding a consultation has received much support. So has Jose Vicente Rangel's candidacy. We can assure you that he is the only candidate who has received the support of several leftwing groups and personalities. This shows that his candidacy cannot be discarded a priori.

2. As we have already stated on several occasions, unity must be seen as a process that goes beyond 1978. Even if an agreement is not reached regarding the candidacy, the following possibilities are open during this electoral year: a greater understanding in order to conduct a campaign without acts of aggression among the various leftwing forces; unification of efforts in the struggle for clean elections; and the defense of the socialist vote. Regarding this latter aspect, MAS can make a very important contribution through its presence in all electoral bodies at the national, state, district and municipal levels. We could reach agreements for united participation in all the mass organization elections held in 1978 so as to oppose Democratic Action and the Social Christian party. We might also carry out joint actions, such as the one planned by the various labor union secretaries to oppose the stability bill that the executive is planning to submit to Congress, and which would affect Venezuelan workers. Finally, we could seek to create conditions that will enable the presentation of joint leftwing lists of candidates for the municipal councils.

[Question] Do you believe that all possibilities for a single leftwing candidacy have been eliminated?

[Answer] For all practical purposes, yes. But we will continue insisting on the process of consultation among the socialist rank and file because we think this is the best way.

Marquez insisted on the support received by Jose Vicente Rangel and on the results of the polls conducted. But he explained that MAS did not attend the meetings with the idea of imposing Rangel's candidacy. According to Marquez, the meetings among the leftwing secretary generals will continue to search for areas of agreements.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS--Ruben Carpio Castillo will leave shortly for New York to take over as the new Venezuelan ambassador to the United Nations Organization. Carpio Castillo is the former ambassador to Canada and Spain. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA]

MOISES TORRIJOS CALLS DRUG ACCUSATIONS ANTITREATY MOVE

LD2314197 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 19 Feb 78 p 6 LD

[Unattributed report" "Maneuver Against Panama Canal Treaty"]

[Text] Moises Torrijos, Panama's ambassador in Spain and brother of the president of that Central American country, Omar Torrijos, has strenuously denied the charges leveled against him with respect to his alleged involvement in a drug trafficking affair. The U.S. Senate's antidrug committee will study the affair on 21 February.

In his statements Mr Torrijos mentions that the same charge was rejected by the U.S. State Department for lack of evidence years ago. According to his statement, the aim of the attempt to involve the Torrijos family in an affair of this nature is to "block the ratification of the new Panama Canal treaty, which--according to every indication--has the two-thirds majority required for its coming into force," states the Panamanian diplomat, who says elsewhere in his statement that the entire episode conceals "obscure anti-Panamanian aims, hidden under the slander."

He also states next that the ultimate aim of all this is to persuade the undecided U.S. senators to vote against the treaty at a time when a clear majority in favor of the agreements is taking shape.

EDUCATION MINISTRY'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE PROTESTS 'MANEUVERS'

PA2314317 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The Panamanian Education Ministry's political committee has issued a resolution in connection with the maneuvers by some U.S. senators to prevent the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The note vigorously protests these maneuvers, calling them outrageous interference in affairs which concern only Panamanians. The same note adds that these blackmail attempts carried out by the most reactionary sectors of the U.S. Senate are not unconnected with the seditious actions of domestic politicians and the intensification of the Zonians' pressure to prevent ratification of the treaties.

ALLEN AMENDMENT WOULD 'INVALIDATE' CANAL TREATIES

PA2413087 Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1220 GMT 24 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] After his first setback, when the proposal that the Panama Canal Treaty be discussed before the neutrality treaty was defeated by a vote of 67 to 30, Senator James Allen presented an amendment calling for the presence of U.S. bases in Panama after the year 2000, the year in which the treaties expire. This amendment proposed by conservative senators is unacceptable to Panama and, if approved, would invalidate the treaties, according to observers who are following the U.S. Senate debate. Amendments aimed at preventing the ratification of the treaties are also being prepared by Senators Robert Dole and Jesse Helms. These amendments are related to economic aspects of the treaty. On the other hand, senators from the Democratic and Republican parties who support ratification have presented two amendments which are acceptable and which reaffirm the United States' right to defend the waterway.

EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS TO EXTEND STAY OF OAS OBSERVERS

PA231729Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The governments of Honduras and El Salvador today decided to extend the stay of OAS military observers along their borders.

The observers arrived in July 1976 when the two nations were about to go to war, as they did in 1969 for 100 hours. The quarterly cost for the OAS mission and upholding a 6-km-wide demilitarized zone is $300,000, which is paid in equal parts by Hondurans and Salvadorans.

In this new period of maintaining peace along the Honduran-Salvadoran border, the chief of operations will be Colombian Col Luis Horacio Agudelo Ruiz, who replaces a fellow Colombian of equal rank, Humberto Cardona Orozco. Before assuming his functions, Agudelo Ruiz met with the chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, Gen Policarpo Paz, and with Honduran chief of state Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro.

The Colombian military is studying how Hondurans and Salvadorans are working to maintain peace. He also intends to visit El Salvador soon.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT WORKERS STRIKE IN DEFIANCE OF GOVERNMENT

PA231602Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1457 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--In an open challenge to the government, Guatemala's 85,000 government employees began a strike today in demand of a 50-percent wage increase.

Post office and telecommunications workers were the first to halt their activities, at 0700 (1300 GMT). They were followed by public school teachers.

The strike was called by the Government Workers Emergency Committee [CETE] after direct efforts to obtain the increase from Gen Kjell Laugerud Garcia failed.

The strike began only 9 days before the presidential elections, which are scheduled for 5 March. This led government sources to state that the strike might be for political reasons in addition to the labor demands.

CETE maintains that the strike is a strictly labor, not a political, movement and is being staged to allow government workers to demand a wage increase in view of the sharp increase in the price of food and housing.

The Finance Ministry warned this morning that workers who participate in the strike will not receive their wages for this month, payment of which will begin tomorrow. The ministry had previously noted that Guatemalan law forbids government employees to strike.

CETE issued an appeal to policemen and soldiers to "refrain from repressing the striking workers because the strike is also being staged on their behalf as they earn miserable salaries which do not cover the needs of their families."

Security agents were posted at public offices today to forestall disturbances.

In addition, some 1,000 workers of the Aguacapa hydroelectric project have gathered in front of the national palace. They are demanding a wage increase from the Mexican Ingenieros Asociados Company, which is building the project.

President Says 'No Compromise'

PA2317317 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] President Laugerud announced last night that he will not compromise with workers who adopted forceful measures yesterday afternoon. He added that government workers cannot declare a strike because it is forbidden by the constitution and civil service laws.

General Laugerud Garcia rejected all pressure to discuss the possibility of a wage increase. He said that government workers who decided to stage a strike are acting illegally and that he could not descend to their level of illegality to discuss a possible wage increase.

President Laugerud appealed to the sense of responsibility of government workers who are aware that the economic process of the country cannot be halted by the decision of a small group of the country's 6 million inhabitants.

In another part of his statement last night, General Laugerud said there are many Guatemalans who would like to go to work immediately and they would be given preference so that Guatemala's economic development is not halted at any time.

The president said that the government would need to invest some 240 million quetzales to grant the wage increases. If it did, he emphasized, projects of great importance such as hospitals and schools, urgently needed to meet the requirements of the people, would have to be suspended.

General Laugerud also urged newsmen to evaluate the situation calmly and equitably and then to appeal to the conscience of government workers.

NICARAGUA

ANTIGOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE IN MASAYA

PA2318547 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Further antigovernment demonstrations took place last night in Masaya, 27 kms east of Managua. The army had to step in and, as a result, intense shooting broke out for 6 hours, according to residents.

Demonstrators who came from the Indian community, Monimbo, took over the Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Plaza, voiced charges against the government and destroyed private and public property. As a result, the military was called in.

The demonstrators partially destroyed the Don Bosco School, which is next to a Catholic Church. The military did not allow the demonstrators to leave the premises. An undetermined number of persons are still inside the school. The military will not allow any cars to travel on adjacent streets, and the residents of the area have either left or are staying inside their homes.

Although it is said that several persons have been wounded, and some maybe even killed, there are no official reports to this effect. The Red Cross has sent three brigades to take care of the energency, but they have not been allowed in the area of conflict for security reasons.

The Masaya fire department reported that it had received reinforcements from Managua and that it has had several emergency calls.

The military authorities have not reported on these incidents. Reports transmitted by the Managua radio stations point out that the army is entrenched in front of the place where the demonstrators are staying. Heavy equipment, such as personnel carriers, is being used.

A La Salle priest, Arnoldo Vasquez from Costa Rica, is serving as mediator with the military authorities in an effort to settle the crisis. This morning the priest held a meeting with the local military chief, reliable sources said. Army Chaplain Donald Garcia has also been seen in the area.

In the last 3 days Masaya has been the center of agitation. Demonstrators are demanding justice and are setting vehicles and buildings on fire, as well as destroying furniture. In the previous days' incidents, the police used only tear gas.

While the National Guard continues control efforts in Monimbo, the president of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, Ismael Reyes, visited the area at 1000 this morning to review the situation. At 1000 a delegation of the Masaya Red Cross, which included President Adan Sanchez Cerda, Treasurer Carlos Vega Bolanos, National President Ismael Reyes and Leopoldo Serrano, went to the National Guard headquarters in Masaya to discuss how they could transfer the wounded from the Don Bosco School, the San Sebastian Church and the [name indistinct] furniture store. The outcome of this meeting between the Masaya Red Cross delegation and the commander, Maj Rafael Asencio, is not known. Major Asencio is the acting commander of the Masaya National Guard unit.

Killed, Wounded Reported

PA231855Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1806 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 23 Feb (AFP)--Eyewitnesses have told reporters that two National Guardsmen were killed in the outbreaks this morning near Masaya.

According to the report, five soldiers and five civilians were wounded. No opposition members have been reported killed.

Update on Disorders

PA232137Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2047 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Masaya, Nicaragua, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--A still undetermined number of soldiers and civilians were injured in a clash which occurred before dawn today in the districts of San Sebastian and Monimbo, Masaya, 30 km east of Managua. At noon today Red Cross brigades managed to obtain guarantees to enter the sectors of the city besieged by army patrols. They found no one with gunshot wounds as had been expected after the shooting confrontation between demonstrating government opponents and the National Guard. Jose Ruiz Sanchez, 60, and Roberto Lopez, 17, were the only ones brought to the Red Cross delegation of Masaya, and they were transferred to a local hospital.

Strict military vigilance is being maintained in those sectors of the city. The soldiers, armed with machineguns, are in armored personnel carriers. A strong chlorate bomb was thrown at a military jeep, slightly injuring several soldiers, according to an unofficial report.

High-ranking armed forces officers, including Generals Gustavo Medina and Armando Fernandez and the commander of Managua, Col Alesio Gutierrez, arrived in Masaya today to evaluate the situation with the local commander, Col Gustavo Martinez.

Commerce, industry and schools have suspended activities due to the uncertainty. The national waterworks and sewers office and a fair-sized general store were sacked by irate demonstrators in Monimbo this morning. They are practically on a war footing. Reliable sources have said that after 43 days of almost continuous agitation in this city, the National Guard command has decided to properly reinforce the local garrison in order to stop these street disorders.

POLICE SEIZE EXPLOSIVES, ARREST FOUR

PA231210Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0412 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Managua police have announced the seizure of a number of bombs that were to be exploded during celebrations of the 44th anniversary of the firing-squad execution of guerrilla leader Augusto Cesar Sandino. Fuse bombs, Molotov cocktails, and red and black flags of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) were seized and four young alleged terrorists were arrested here today by the police.

Meanwhile, military patrols have broken up demonstration attempts in the Santa Rosa and San Judas neighborhoods. In San Judas an urban bus caught fire following a bomb explosion which damaged the vehicle of an IDB official. The vehicle was parked in front of the official's office in the Camino de Oriente business center. Another bomb exploded in the back yard of a house in the poor neighborhood of Acahualinca near Managua Lake. This bomb slightly injured a minor.

The arrested persons, who had highly flammable products in their possession, were turned over to a criminal court. There were antigovernment disorders also in the neighboring city of Masaya, 30 km east of Managua, and in other towns following religious services for Sandino.

Meanwhile, bishops participating in the "Nicaragua Episcopal Conference" are meeting today in Matagalpa, in the country's north, to analyze the violence affecting the Nicaraguan society.

NEWSMAN SEEKS ASYLUM IN VENEZUELAN EMBASSY

PA231547Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] A Nicaraguan newsman has sought asylum in the Venezuelan Embassy. Yesterday afternoon Mrs Judity Oporta de Meneses, wife of Santiago Menese (Vallesillo), reported that her husband had taken refuge in the Venezuelan Embassy in Managua.

Mrs Meneses, who lives in the Morazan residential area, reported that at approximately 1500 yesterday a military patrol raided her home and left everything in great disorder. Her husband, Santiago Meneses, was informed of what was happening at his home. A few minutes later Meneses (Vallesillo) went to the Venezuelan Embassy in Managua. Mrs Judith Oporta de Meneses reports that she has been left alone with her three children.

NATIONAL GUARD DENIES DEATH OF U.S. MERCENARY

PA211953Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar, National Guard legal and public relations office chief, has said the alleged killing of a Yankee mercenary during clashes with the Sandinist Front is sheer speculation. Colonel Aranda Escobar said that this is part of an international misinformation campaign which is trying to discredit General Somoza's administration.

The legal and public relations office chief said that an official communique will not be issued to deny the Sandinist Front's contentions regarding the death of the mercenary.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORTS ON STRIKE LOSSES

PA221939Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce has confirmed that the Managua business sector failed to sell goods worth 244.4 million cordobas during the national strike. [Words indistinct] in 1977 and the poll taken among Managua businessmen and reached the conclusion that losses during the months of January and February during the national strike and the subsequent events amounted to 244.4 million cordobas. This is the same amount of money earned from the sale of goods during the same period last year, according to reports. The businessmen feel that the government estimates are conservative and believe that, although it is impossible to evaluate the total losses, these losses might amount to 300 million cordobas.

The government failed to receive approximately 15 million cordobas in sales taxes during the same period. This was the amount collected during the smae period in 1977, which is the base being used to estimate the 1978 losses.

FRENCH EMBASSY DENIES SALE OF WEAPONS

PA181454Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The French Embassy in Managua has reported that France has not sold weapons to the Nicaraguan Government or signed contracts for such sales in recent weeks. However, the embassy did not rule out the possibility that private French companies may have negotiated with the Nicaraguan Government to supply it with weapons.

The explanation was given by the embassy in response to pressure from student sectors which had discussed the possibility that France might be selling weapons to Nicaragua.

BRIEFS

HONDURAN EXPORT-IMPORT REVENUE--The national customs department collected over 208.7 million lempiras in import-export duties during 1977. This amount reflects an increase of 81 million lempiras over 1976 figures. [SERCANO Network] [Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA]

MONUMENT TO 'INTERNATIONALIST SOVIET SOLDIER' DEDICATED

Television Coverage

FL240105 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Service Television Service in Spanish at 2303 GMT on 23 February 1978 carries videotape coverage of a ceremony held on the Havana City-San Antonio de Los Banos turnpike, somewhere west of Havana, at 1400 GMT on 23 February to dedicate the "internationalist Soviet soldier mausoleum." The announcer reports that "the dedication ceremony of the mausoleum, a symbol of the consistent practice of socialist internationalism and the irrevocable friendship between the Cuban and Soviet peoples and armed forces, is being held within the framework of the commemorative activities of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the beloved and glorious Soviet Armed Forces."

Immediately after the commander of the troops assembled in front of the mausoleum orders "present arms," the national anthems of Cuba and the USSR are played by the general staff military band while an artillery unit fires a salute. The announcer reports that Comrade Rosa Margarita Gonzales Ramos, a student of Havana's Camilo Cienguegos military vocational school, is reading an appeal to future generations. Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], is seen lighting the eternal flame in tribute to the internationalist Soviet soldier.

The announcer reports that the ceremony is being presided over by Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and FAR minister; members of the PCC Politburo and Secretariat; Air Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov, first deputy commander in chief of the USSR Air Forces; Col Gen Atanas Semedzhiev, first deputy defense minister and chief of the Bulgarian People's Army General Staff; USSR Ambassador to Cuba Nikita Tolubeyev; members of the PCC Central Committee; government ministers; leaders of mass organizations; FAR vice ministers; generals, and Soviet military specialists.

The speakers are Soviet Ambassador Tolubeyev and Army Gen Raul Castro. After Castro's speech, troops parade in front of the stand.

The ceremony ends at 2347 GMT.

Soviet Ambassador's Speech

FL232250Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1907 GMT 23 Feb 78 FL

[Speech by USSR Ambassador Nikita P. Tolubeyev at ceremony to dedicate the "internationalist Soviet soldier mausoleum"--recorded, in Russian with sentence-by-sentence translation]

[Text] Dear Comrade Raul Castro Ruz, FAR minister of the Republic of Cuba; dear PCC Politburo members; Dear Comrade Air Marshal Yefimov; dear Cuban FAR soldiers, noncommissioned officers, officers and generals; dear Soviet military advisers:

On 23 February 1978 the glorious Armed Forces of the USSR celebrated their 60th anniversary. The Soviet people and their combatants celebrate this anniversary in an atmosphere of great political and working enthusiasm, aroused by the approval of the new USSR Constitution and the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Great October. Complying with the 25th CPSU Congress resolutions, the Soviets are achieving new successes in building communism.

In the area surrounding the city of Pskov, where 60 years ago the first socialist army achieved their first victory over the imperialist invaders, a majestic monument has been erected in honor of the Red Army--a 47-meter-high sculpted bayonet. Written on the pedestal are Lenin's words: "Comrades, always be alert; protect the defensive capacity of our country and of our Red Army as if they were the apple of your eye."

For over six decades, our armed forces, created by the great Lenin and the Communist Party, have stood guard over the socialist fatherland. By including in the new Constitution the special chapter on the peaceful foreign policy of the USSR, our people stressed their loyalty to the Leninist objective of peace and to the noble cause of freeing humanity from war.

The CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government are doing everything necessary to create favorable conditions abroad to build communism in our country. Their international activity is carried out in light of the fulfillment of the resolutions of the 25th CPSU Congress aimed at the future consolidation of the forces of socialism and democracy, at securing the principles of peaceful coexistence in the world arena between states of different social regimes. In cooperation with the fraternal socialist countries, the USSR struggles to end the arms race set off by imperialism; it struggles for the transition to disarmament.

Nevertheless, the positive changes in the world arena seem to scare the reactionary forces. Under the pretext of the false propaganda campaign on the alleged Soviet military threat, influential imperialist circles are increasing their war potentials, planning the production of new types of weapons, among them the neutron bomb and guided missiles. The Leninist party, heading the building of communism, examines all aspects of the realities of our times, taking into consideration the present situation in the world. In answer to the threats from the imperialists, the Soviet state is forced to improve its defenses. We have never renounced nor will we ever renounce our country's security, or that of our allies, stated Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman, Defense Council chairman, Marshal of the Soviet Union, in his speech at the ceremony awarding the Gold Star medal to the hero city of Tula.

The Soviet Army is an army of the workers, founded by the workers, and defending the class interests of the workers and, consequently, the cause of lasting peace on earth. It is symbolic that the first insignia which the first Soviet combatants wore, the five-point red star, has the picture of a hammer and sickle in it. Presently millions of men throughout the world recognize the red star with the hammer and sickle as the symbol of the Soviet Armed Forces.

The Soviet Armed Forces have never waged wars of conquest. They have never participated in aggressive campaigns. The Soviet combatants helped in World War II to free other peoples from the fascist yoke, honorably complying with their internationalist mission. Millions of our combatants fought in the territories of many European and Asian states, freeing their peoples from slavery. With the selfless compliance with their internationalist duty, the Soviet Army won affection and universal recognition from our friends in the fraternal socialist countries, from all progressive humanity. With justice, they consider the celebrations in honor of their 60th anniversary as their own celebration.

Comrades, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces in Cuba with our class brothers and comrades in arms. All of us were deeply impressed by the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution by the entire Cuban people on the land of Marti and Fidel. The friendship and cooperation between our parties, states and peoples are deeper and stronger than ever. Close cooperation unites the armed forces of our fraternal countries.

Today, on the day of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces, the mausoleum of Soviet combatants who have died on Cuban soil [as heard] is inaugurated here. Lowering our Red flags to them, we say: You have honorably complied with your internationalist duty. We are proud of you. Years will pass, but your memory is immortal. The torch of eternal glory which is lighted today at the base of the mausoleum will be a symbol of the indestructible brotherhood between our peoples, a symbol of socialist internationalism.

Long live the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces! [shouts of "viva"] Eternal glory to the Soviet Armed Forces, which guard the peaceful work and guard the strong peace on earth! Eternal glory to the FAR of the Republic of Cuba! Long live peace and communism! [shouts of "viva"] Long live the unbreakable Soviet-Cuban friendship! [shouts of "viva," applause]

Raul Castro Speech

FL232200Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1925 GMT 23 Feb 78 FL

[Speech by Army Gen Raul Castro at ceremony to dedicate the "internationalist Soviet soldier mausoleum"--recorded]

[Text] Comrade Nikita Pavlovich Tolubeyev, USSR ambassador to Cuba; Comrade Air Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov and other representatives of the glorious Soviet Armed Forces; comrades:

The year we are living has numerous anniversaries which demonstrate the unchangeable direction of contemporary history, whose beginning can be found in the fact that 60 years ago, during those days of upheaval, the working class and peasantry of the former Russia of the Czars, led by the Bolsheviks and under Lenin's brilliant guidance, were moving forward, with exemplary intelligence and determination, the tasks for the first victorious proletarian revolution in the history of mankind.

Just a few weeks ago, on 25 January, as an example, the declaration of the rights of the exploited working people which was adopted by the Third All-Russia Congress of Soviets, celebrated its 60th anniversary. This document is the forerunner of the present USSR Constitution and constituted an educational exposition of principles of the emerging new social system. The essence of the Marxist-Leninist concept on the defense of the revolution, the rejection of the wars of plunder unleashed by imperialism, and the policy of peaceful coexistence, indissolubly tied to the support of the national liberation movement--which would be assured soon after with the creation of the Red Army--are contained in that document.

The 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces is therefore marked by us under the same militant and fraternal spirit which characterized the countless activities conducted last year in honor of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The Cuban people welcomed the 60 years of the Great October with absolute understanding of the universal historic significance of the great feats of the Russian Bolsheviks. They made their own the resolution of our party's Central Committee dealing with that commemoration and translated it into joyful demonstrations of admiration, respect and affection toward Lenin's fatherland. At the same time, it was an effort that stimulated the creative energies and the will of struggle of our working class and all the working people, by making significant advances and attaining new gains in the economic building and social work of the revolution.

Created by Lenin's political genius in response to the historic need for the defense of the country of the Soviets and emerged in the midst of the commotion of the class struggle, the USSR Armed Forces have traversed, with great audacity and proven loyalty to the cause of socialism and communism, the heroic and glorious path followed by the Soviet people who, under the resolute and consistent leadership of the Communist Party, have built under the most adverse circumstances a society without exploiters or exploited which is an example and pride for all revolutionaries of the world.

The legitimate product of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Soviet Armed Forces today have the richest and most exemplary tradition of combat and victory for the liberation of the oppressed. Forged in the brutal confrontation against domestic reactionary forces and foreign interventionists during the liberating mission they fulfilled for the sake of mankind as a decisive force of the anti-Hitler coalition, they defeated fascism during the Great Fatherland War. Their tradition is enriched by the tireless effort of the last 33 years aimed at strengthening the defensive capability of the USSR and the socialist community, at preserving peace in the world and at giving solidarity aid to the world revolutionary movement.

Upon reaching their 60th anniversary, the Soviet Armed Forces, whose scientific and technical development, high moral standards and combat efficiency are beyond doubt--and foremost, to the most passionate warmongering circles of imperialism--constitute a bright example of the present Soviet Union and of the policy of principles of Lenin's party. The colossal economic, scientific and technical development attained by the Soviet people is embodied in the Soviet Armed Forces. In each of the soldiers, sailors, sergeants, officers, generals and admirals, the ideological firmness and socialist humanism--which today are the patrimony of the great family of peoples making up the Soviet Union--is personified.

The unending training and continuous modernization of arms and combat means strengthen the security of the peoples and contribute to removing the dangers of a war of devastation. It is so stated in the Leninist policy of peace inscribed on the flag of the Soviet state since its birth. For numerous peoples struggling for national independence and territorial integrity and social progress, the Soviet Armed Forces represent the consistent practice, without any kind of wavering, of proletarian and socialist internationalism.

On such a memorable occasion as this one, we feel proud and stimulated by the combat fraternity uniting the Cuban FAR with the Soviet Armed Forces, the bulwark of the world revolution and principal dissuasive force in the face of the monopolies' voraciousness and the imperialists' aggressive schemes. The essence of those ties was stressed by Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of our party and commander in chief of the FAR, when he called the Soviet military specialists teachers of our armed forces. We respectfully keep in our minds, with great affection, admiration and gratitude, the Soviet officers-specialists who have been in our country at our side, even during difficult moments, Comrade Fidel said in closing.

That is why we share your joy on this day and, on behalf of the PCC, our government and all our people, allow me to congratulate all of you, the veterans of the Great Fatherland War and, especially, beloved Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, Marshal of the Soviet Union, who was recently decorated with the Order of Victory, conferred upon him for his great contribution to the victory of the Soviet people and their armed forces during the Great Fatherland War, for his outstanding merits in the strengthening of the country's defensive capability, for the preparation and consistent application of the policy of peace of the Soviet state.

Dear Soviet comrades, as a symbol of the indestructible fraternity that unites us, which was forged in the defense and consolidation of the first socialist state of the Western Hemisphere and sealed with the common blood we have shed, this mausoleum to the internationalist Soviet soldier, where the remains of numerous Soviet combatants who fell on the soil of our fatherland [as heard] while honorably fulfilling their internationalist duty will be zealously guarded and defended, as is every inch of our fatherland, at whatever price is necessary, by our armed forces and all our people.

The remains resting here will serve as a permanent education for present and future generations. The example of their lives renews our absolute conviction that the Cubans of the 21st century, together with future generations of Soviets and all peoples on the planet, will respond to today's call and will maintain very high the glorious flags hoisted during the Great October and heroically defended over 60 years by the Soviet Armed Forces.

The sons of our sons will come here to pay tribute to the heroes and to express gratitude because, thanks to the sacrifice of fighters such as those resting here, thousands of miles from the land where they were born, future generations will be able to learn about exploitation, national and social oppression, poverty and war only through the history books for they will be citizens of a communist world. Our brotherhood will be as eternal as that flame. Honor and glory to the Soviet brothers who fell in Cuba: Long live the proletarian internationalism! [shouts of "viva"] Fatherland or death! [crowd shouts "we will win!"]

FIDEL DECORATES YEFIMOV, OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS

FL231250Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Fidel Castro, our commander in chief, PCC Central Committee first secretary, and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, has awarded the commemorative medal "20th Anniversary of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]" to USSR Ambassador in Cuba Nikita Tolubeyev. Fidel also awarded the medal to Air Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov, first deputy commander in chief of the USSR Air Forces and twice Hero of the USSR, and to the rest of the delegation from that fraternal country invited to attend Cuban activities honoring the USSR Armed Forces 60th anniversary.

Also receiving the "20th Anniversary of the FAR" medal at the solemn ceremony were diplomatic officials from the Soviet Embassy in Cuba and Soviet military specialists. Attending the event were Army Gen Raul Castro, PCC second secretary and FAR minister, other Politburo and Central Committee members, FAR ministers and vice ministers, and other generals and officers.

SOVIET AIR MARSHAL YEFIMOV VISITS AIRBASE

FL221830Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Soviet Air Marshal Aleksandr Yefimov, first deputy commander in chief of the USSR Air Force, has paid a visit to the Playa Giron Guard Airbase. Yefimov was accompanied by Division Gen Francisco Cabrera Gonzalez, vice minister-chief of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force (DAFAR) and alternate member of the PCC Central Committee.

During the visit the high-ranking Soviet military officer and his entourage toured areas and installations of the airbase and observed air maneuvers by several combat aircraft. Marshal Yefimov congratulated the pilots and presented a USSR Air Force standard to the Cuban airbase as a symbol of the friendship between the Soviet and Cuban armed forces.

BLAS ROCA RECEIVES NEW JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR

FL180150Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Comrade Blas Roca Calderio, president of the National People's Government Assembly and vice president of the Council of State, this morning received in solemn audience Mrs (Lucille Moss Maturmaire), who presented the credentials that accredit her as Jamaican ambassadress. Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli participated in the ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the ambassadress and her entourage went to Revolution Plaza and laid a floral wreath at the monument to our apostle, Jose Marti.

PINEIRO LOSADA RECEIVES ALLENDE'S WIDOW

FL231136Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Feb 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee member Manuel Pineiro Losada, chief of the party's America Department, has received Hortensia Bussi, Chilean President Salvador Allende's widow. Topics relating to world solidarity with the Chilean people in their just struggle against Augusto Pinochet's fascist regime were discussed.

RAUL ROA, SOVIET SPEAK AT PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

FL232015Y Hanana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 1902 GMT 23 Feb 78 FL

[Text] It has been a great honor for us that Cuba was selected as host nation of the event, Raul Roa, vice president of the National People's Government Assembly, stated in his closing remarks at the consultative meeting of chairmen of socialist countries interparliamentary groups which was held at the Havana Libre Hotel. Roa added that the work had been conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality, freedom of opinion, and wise reflection for a better understanding and mastery of the agenda's topics.

We are proud of the event, Raul Roa stressed and added: In sum, the Havana meeting has accumulated more credits than debits. In closing, Roa said: Our most important meeting will take place in Lisbon, Portugal. There, as socialist countries and representatives of revolutionary and progressive mankind to whom the future belongs, we will continue to work together.

In a speech at the closing session of the consultative meeting, the head of the Soviet delegation, (A.P. Chitikov), praised Cuba's foreign policy. He said Cuba's foreign policy is making a great contribution to the strengthening of peace, and referred to the fact that the delegations participating in the consultative meeting had been received by Fidel. (Chitikov) expressed gratitude for the organizing efforts which made the meeting a success and praised the proceedings. He pointed out that all participants were pleased for the meeting's results.

GDR'S WEISS TO ARRIVE FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING

FL231731Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Berlin--Gerhard Weiss, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, will arrive in Havana tomorrow at the head of a delegation to participate in the ninth session of the Cuban-GDR intergovernmental commission. The deputy chairman and SED Central Committee member will be in Cuba for several days to attend these sessions.

BULGARIAN DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS EASTERN AREAS

FL231830Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Col Gen Atanas Semedzhiev, first deputy defense minister, chief of the Bulgarian People's Army General Staff and member of his country's Communist Party Central Committee, has visited various places of historical interest in the eastern region.

The distinguished Bulgarian official was accompanied on his visit to the eastern region by Division Gen Rigoberto Garcia, member of the PCC Central Committee and vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR. The places visited included Las Coloradas, location of the landing of the historic Granma yacht; El Uvero and La Plata, sites of rebel army battles; and La Demajagua, where Carlos Manuel de Cespedes issued the call of "independence or death" in 1868.

At Segundo Frente municipality the visitors toured the site where a mausoleum is under construction for the remains of the heroes who died in battle at the Frank Pais second front.

In Santiago de Cuba the Bulgarian first deputy defense minister held a friendly meeting with Jose Ramon Balaguer, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary in that province.

PROVINCIAL ATTORNEYS GENERAL DESIGNATED

FL231658Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1648 GMT 23 Feb 78 FL

[Text] By a resolution issued by the attorney general of the republic, the provincial attorneys general have been designated. Comrade Fernando (Ayuso) Ruiz was named to Pinar del Rio, and Dr Claudio Lopez Gardet to Villa Clara. Also named as provincial attorneys were Omar Cardenas Gonzalez to Sancti Spiritus, (Eddy Capote Palomo) to Cienfuegos and Roberto Garcia Pena to Camaguey Province. The attorney general's resolution assigns Felipe Barrero Bravo to Ciego de Avila, Juan Regalado Salazar to Santiago de Cuba Province and Caridad Rojas Ross to Granma. Also named attorneys were (Ruben Lazurcales) to Las Tunas, Angel (Oliva Arazola) to Guantanamo and Pedro Pineda Labaninos to Holguin Province.

The comrades named are the attorney general's office representatives for the provinces, and the corresponding municipalities are subordinated to them.

CUBA DONATES $1.25 MILLION TO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

FL221147Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Cuba has announced a contribution of $1.25 million to the world food program for 1979-1980. It is considered the largest donation so far by any country of this continent. The donations to date by more than 52 countries amount to more than $630 million, the highest amount achieved so far for this program, which is estimated should raise $950 million for the 2-year period. With this amount it is hoped to fund development projects, especially in the most backward countries.

BRIEFS

IL-26-M TRAINING--Ground training for the crews of the IL-26-M has been completed at the Fernando Alvarez aviation school. The 26 members of the class include pilots, in-flight mechanics and crew. They will now go to the Soviet Union for qualification training. [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Feb 78 FL]

HAVANA AIRPORT EXPANSION--A taxiway parallel to the runway with access ramps and an aircraft parking area are presently under construction at Jose Marti International Airport. These projects are part of the airport's expansion and modernization plans, which include the installation of a new runway lighting system and another in the area for servicing aircraft. The taxiway will have the same length as the runway, about 3.5 km. The aircraft parking area will cover 76,000 square meters. [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Feb 78 FL]

HOLGUIN IRRIGATION PROJECT--The first stage of an irrigation and drainage system for Holguin Province, which will eventually cover 680 caballerias of sugarcane fields, has been inaugurated at an event in Holguin. PCC Central Committee member Miguel Cano Blanco, Holguin Province party first secretary, said in closing remarks that this system will eventually be able to irrigate most of the sugarcane fields in the province. He also announced that construction has begun on the Melones dam in Mayari, which will have a capacity of 400 million cubic meters of water. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 16 Feb 78 FL]

JAMAICA

MINISTER-SENATOR THOMPSON LINKS CRIME TO DESTABILIZATION EFFORTS

FL221620Y Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 19 Feb 78 pp 1, 3 FL

[Text] The degree of crime today is a hang-over of imperialist efforts that have tried to destabilise Jamaica, according to Senator Dudley Thompson, the minister of national security. In a speech to the UWI [University of West Indies] students and unionised workers at Mona on Friday night, Mr. Thompson spoke on the "struggle and on several aspects of crime. He said that certain elements in the press had done nearly as much as the criminals in spreading alarm in the country.

When four people are killed in the ghetto it was no big thing, but when a selected few have been killed it was big news, the minister said.

The minister was invited by the Guild of Undergraduates and the University and Allied Workers Union to address them on matters pertaining to crime on the campus, and crime in the country in general.

Guild President Mr. Richard Jones told the minister that the problem of crime on the campus had become sharp over the last two weeks and it was a problem that the entire university area was suffering from.

"Urgent Need"

He said that since the last two weeks both organizations had taken note of the increasing crime rate and had decided that concrete action was needed to be taken immediately to deal with this problem.

Mr. Jones suggested areas of urgent need such as dogs to patrol the halls, proper lighting for areas frequented by students, and police patrol cars on the grounds.

The minister in responding said that police patrol cars would be available to the campus by the following day and consideration was being given to the setting up of a new police post for the Hermitage area. The site he said had been already located. He said that direct "tie-lines" between the university and the police were being worked on.

Mr. Thompson said that the minister and the Ministry of National Security along with the security forces alone could not solve the problem of crime. But he said, a ministry properly tuned together with a disciplined security force and the vital link of the masses of this country could solve crime.

Pledge

Dealing with what he described as the "nature of the struggle," the minister said that it was not just ordinary knife or gunmen killing ordinary people; "I sincerely believe that the degree, nature and tempo of crime today is a hangover of the imperialist efforts that have tried to destabilise Jamaica."

Those people, he said, who felt that because a party had won an election all was well until the next election, they must now realise that the imperialist struggle to control never stops and their aim was to suppress the working class of the world by providing a barrier between the privileged and the non-privileged.

Mr. Thompson said that when people speak about crime in Jamaica they zero onto the ghetto, but ghetto crime, he noted, was one characteristic. "Every big man in this country who sent millions of dollars to Miami is creating more crime," he declared.

Expressing alarm about the figures for rape in the Hermitage area, the minister reiterated that the "mad dogs in the society will be exterminated from this society."

The minister spoke about the upsurge of public opinion since he made the statement that the "mad dogs in the society will be destroyed," and repeated that he pledged to exterminate them from this society.

"I am not insensitive to public opinion, but the little clique knows that the dog catchers will remain silent because it is only the dogs that bark."

The minister said that the amount of brainwashing done in this country by people who were only educated by the DAILY GLEANER was a serious thing, adding that certain elements in the press had done nearly as much as the criminals themselves in spreading alarm in the country.

"We need co-operation from every class and every section," the minister said, adding that crime had its waves, it goes up and down. However, he said "right now it is much too high for comfort."

The minister said that those who were prepared to fight aganst crime should come out and do it instead of sitting down complaining about police brutality. He said that 26 policemen were slain last year "and I do not want to see this figure this year."

He said however that within the bounds of reason any policeman who exercised bloodthirstiness, or who commits police brutality would be extracted from the force "like a decayed tooth."

The minister said that there was no time for politics in the fight against crime, as crime was not only linked to the ghetto. He gave as example the every day and night breaking of the financial regulations, organised arson and industrial unrest designed to bring the establishment into disrepute. "There is no time for politics. We have to rid this country of those who want to take power by clandestine means," he said.

Labour Party Contradiction

FL221635Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Feb 78 p 11 FL

[Text] The Jamaica Labour Party [JLP] in a statement issued yesterday has said that since Minister of National Security Senator Dudley Thompson knows that the cause of crime is the "imperialist agents", will he say whether the Green Bay affair is such an example. The statement under the signature of Dr. Percival Broderick, leader of opposition business and deputy chairman of the JLP, followed an address by the secretary minister to UWI [University of West Indies] students and workers at Mona on the crime situation on Friday night.

The JLP statement said the minister's statement was an example of the irresponsible approach and the contempt for which the majority of the government holds the public. Said the JLP statements:

"The recent statement by the minister of national security, Senator Dudley Thompson, in his address to the students and unionised workers at Mona on the crime situation, is an example of the irresponsible approach and the contempt for which the vast majority of the present government holds the public.

"Senator Thompson must bring out the evidence and name the persons involved in the 'imperialist efforts that have tried to destabilize Jamaica.'

"This country at this time cannot afford the luxury of the type of rumour-mongering to which the senator is contributing.

"If the senator wishes to retain any respectability in this his new and last post, he must refuse the temptation of making speeches filled with those old tired political cliches.

"Since Senator Thompson knows that the cause of crime is the 'imperialist agents' will the senator say whether the Green Bay affair is such an example.

"Senator Thompson must perform or shut up if he is to make meaningful contribution to so sensitive an area."

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH NORWAY FOR GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

FL212300Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Feb 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Jamaica and Norway yesterday signed a bilateral agreement for a geophysical survey to be carried out on the Pedro Bank and inshore areas of western Jamaica.

Included in the agreement was a grant of US$1.6 million from Norway to finance the project which involves the acquisition, processing and interpretation of data for oil exploration. The signing was undertaken by Mining Minister The Hon. Horace Clarke and Mr. Jakob Storaas of the Norwegian Agency for International Development.

The project will begin in April and will be carried out over the next 15 months by the Norwegian company Geco.

The Hon. Mr. Clarke noted that under the bilateral agreement two Jamaicans will be sent to Norway for further training in the gathering of seismic data.

He observed that it was important to Jamaica to find out if there was oil here or not. He said that Norway sought only to assist Jamaica in this determination.

Mr. Storaas pointed out that the geophysical survey would be the first concrete project to be undertaken since both countries signed a technical co-operation agreement late last year.

CUBAN DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES

FL222257Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2203 GMT 22 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Belarmino Castilla Mas, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers and member of the PCC Central Comm ttee, has arrived in Georgetown accompanied by a delegation to participate in the official festivities marking the eighth anniversary of the proclamation of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. Belarmino Castilla was met at Georgetown's international airport by Robert Corbin, minister of state for national development, and other officials.

Carlos Amat, director of the Latin America and Caribbean Department of the Foreign Ministry; Juan Vela, rector of the University of Camaguey; and Manuel Guillot, an official of the PCC Central Committee, are the other members of the Cuban delegation. Cuban Ambassador to Guyana Ivan Cesar Martinez, who was present at the airport to welcome Castilla Mas, is also a member of the Cuban official delegation to the Guyanese festivities.

The Cuban delegation attending the Guyanese anniversary festivities tonight will participate in the main event that will be held at the national park, during which Prime Minister Forbes Burnham will read a message to the nation followed by the hoisting of the Guyanese flag.

This morning the Cuban delegation headed by Belarmino Castilla met with Deputy Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid, secretary general of the ruling People's National Congress Party. During the talks, Castilla Mas was greeted by Cammie Ramsaroop, chairman of the People's National Congress Party, and Viola Burnham, leader of the Women's Socialist Revolutionary Movement. The Cuban delegation's official program of activities also includes meetings with other Guyanese ministers and visits to places of interest in Georgetown.

Visits University of Guyana

FL231436Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1355 GMT 23 Feb 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee and Council of State member Belarmino Castilla Mas has toured the University of Guyana and spoke with students and officials from this center for advanced study. The Cuban leader also met with Vice Rector (Dennis Ilvenith) to discuss different types of cooperation between the two countries. Castilla Mas, who is also Cuban Council of Ministers vice president, arrived yesterday in Georgetown, the Guyanese capital, invited to attend the eighth anniversary of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana proclamation, which is being celebrated today. During his tour of the modern university, Castilla Mas spoke with Guyanese student athletes and workers, who stated their support of the 11th World Youth and Students Festival. He also met with Deputy Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid.

CEMA TEAM ENDS VISIT TO STUDY ECONOMIC COOPERATION

FL181725Y Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 12 Feb 78 p 4 FL

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Saturday (CANA)--A five-man team from the Secretariat of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) completed a two-week visit this week but little had been said about the outcome of the trip.

A Guyana Government communique said that the team's visit had been intended to identify areas for possible economic co-operation between Guyana and the Soviet-led economic bloc, and the possible forms of such co-operation.

An agreement was reached that the CMEA Secretariat would inform the Guyana Government about the results of the examination by the CMEA organs of the material collected by the team and its proposals, the communique said.

An examination of the places of interest visited by the team could give an indication of possible areas for co-operation.

These included a sugar estate, the bauxite industry, the University of Guyana, the Guyana School of Agriculture, and a fish processing complex.

But the communique made it clear that the talks between the team and Guyana officials covered the development prospects of various sectors of the Guyana economy.

Also discussed were some of the industrial and other projects identified by Guyana for future implementation.

"The discussions were held in a friendly and business-like atmosphere" the communique added.

The CMEA team arrived in Georgetown January 24 as a result of an exchange of letters between the two sides. Initial contact had been made a year ago when Guyana's Economic Development Minister Desmond attended the CMEA meeting in Havana, Cuba, and addressed delegates, at their request.

Guyana followed up with a formal application for a form of relationship with the socialist grouping.

While here the CMEA officials paid courtesy calls on Prime Minister Forbes Burnham, Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Ptolemy Reid, and Foreign and Justice Minister Fred Wills.

Working sessions were held with Economic Development Minister Hoyte, Energy and Natural Resources Minister Hubert Jack, Agriculture Minister Gavin Kennard, Trade and Consumer Protection Minister George King, and Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana Dr. Dennis Irvine.

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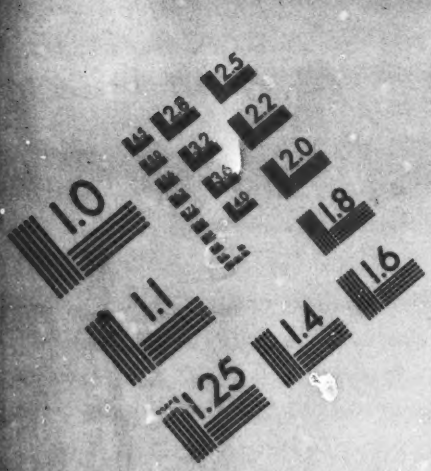

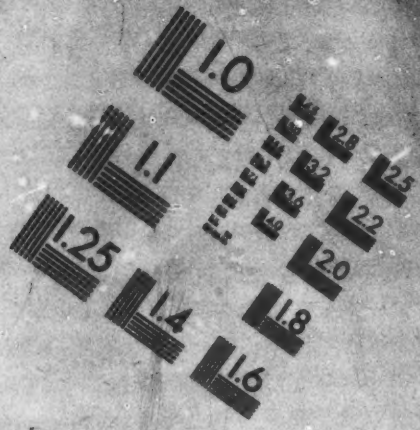

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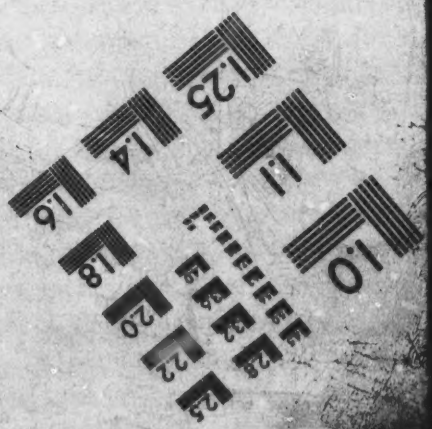

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23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503